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PAGE 01 SEOUL 09308 0511262
ACTION FA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 JUSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 084 W
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BAF Cook DATE 2/12/80

P R 0306402 NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7365
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CINCPAC ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)
E.O. 11652: N A
TAGS: SOPN PFOR KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS COVERS PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR
REF: (A) SEOUL 9289 DTG 0208172 NOV 77)
SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS NOVEMBER 2 AND 3 PREDICTS U.S. RESPONSE TO FONMIN'S INITIATIVE WILL BE GIVEN TODAY. HAN'GUK ILBO EDIT CONTINUES ATTACK ON HOUSE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.
1. AFTERNOON VERNACULAR DAILIES NOVEMBER 1 AND MORNING PAPERS NOVEMBER 2 ALIKE CARRIED SMALL, FRONT-PAGE, LOCAL ARTICLES SPECULATING THAT U.S. RESPONSE TO FONMIN'S INITIATIVE OF OCTOBER 31 HAD ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED (PRESUMABLY BY U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL) AND THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD CONVEY IT TO FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN NOVEMBER SECOND OR THIRD. MORNING HAN'GUK ILBO ATTRIBUTES ABOVE TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE AND GOES ON TO STATE "IT HAS BECOME KNOWN" THAT U.S. IS
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SHOWING A "FAVORABLE RESPONSE" TO PROPOSAL OF ROKG, WHICH "HINTED FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE PLACE, ETC. FOR PRE-LIMINARY CONFIRMING PAK TONG-SON'S INTENTIONS." PERHAPS MORE FRANKLY, MORNING CHOSON ILBO QUOTES A SOURCE AS "HOPING U.S. WILL RECEIVE OUR PROPOSAL AFFIRMATIVELY." PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT FONMIN PAK, ASKED ABOUT FOREIGN REPORTS THAT ROK HAD PROPOSED QUESTIONING PAK TONG-SON IN A THIRD COUNTRY (REFTEL), SAID "I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT."
2. MASS CIRCULATION HAN'GUK ILBO, IN LENGTHY AND UNUSUAL SINGLE EDITORIAL NOVEMBER 3, STRONGLY ATTACKED 10/31 HOUSE RESOLUTION, TERMING IT "DOMINEERING," "CONTEMPTUOUS," AND "HUMILITATING." WRITERS RESERVED GREATEST WRATH FOR MOVEMENT THEY SEE TOWARD LINKING COOPERATION ON PAK CASE WITH COMPENSATORY MEASURES FOR U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL, POSING RHETORICAL QUESTION AS TO WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT--THE PAK CASE, OR THE FATE OF 35 MILLION KOREANS, WHO MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO THE SEVERE SUFFERINGS OF ANOTHER NORTH KOREAN ATTACK.
SNEIDER

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DECL:02/16/10